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Suggested Peach Varieties for Illinois Commercial Orchards

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H-668

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign December, 1970

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Urbana, Illinois

December, 1970

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. John B. Claar, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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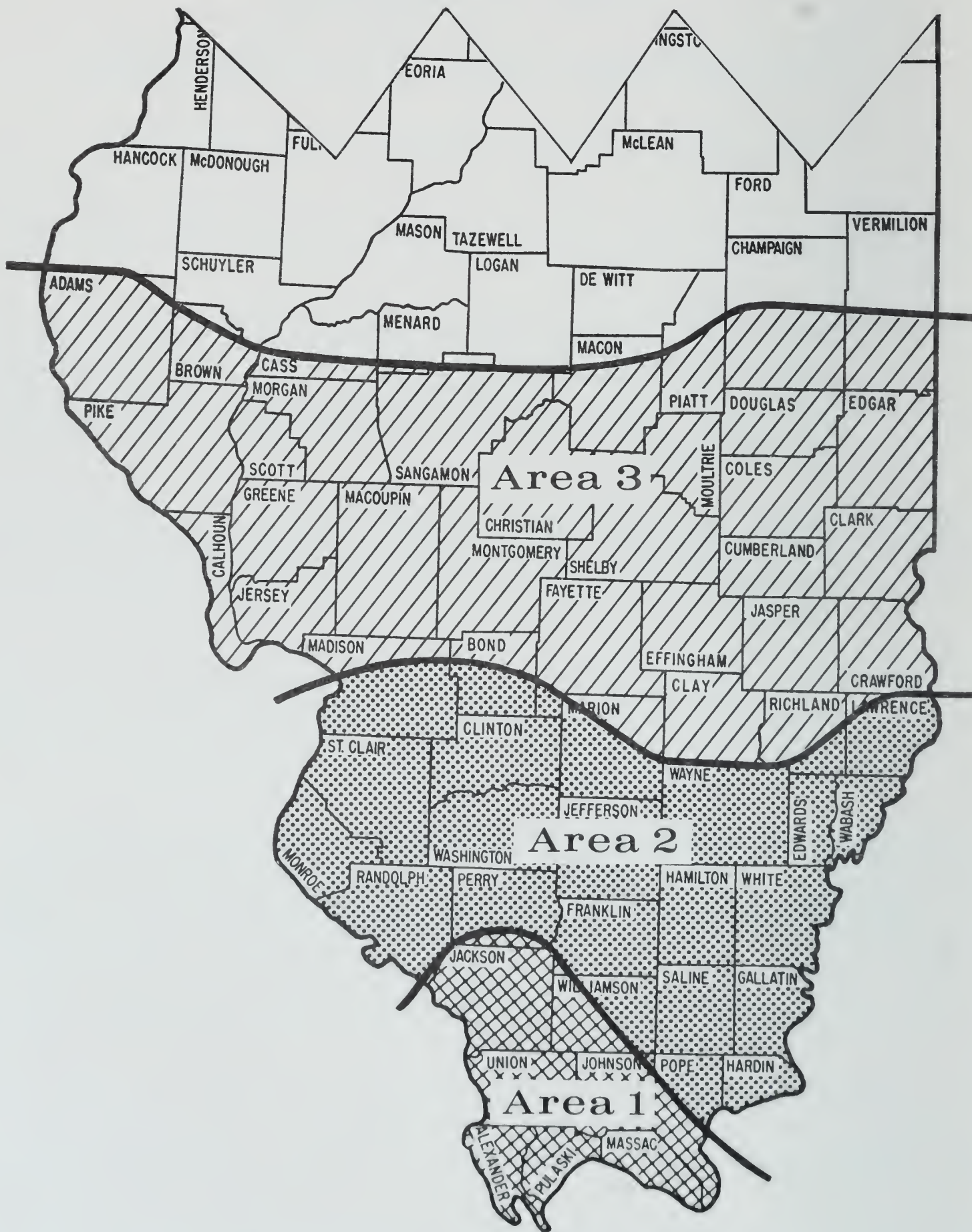
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Illinois peach variety suggestions are divided into three general areas:

- AREA 1. This is the major peach shipping area of Illinois. All varieties suggested are suitable for commercial shipping. For local roadside-stand sales, varieties such as Envoy, Golden Jubilee, Raritan Rose, and Madison may be added.
- AREA 2. Fruit from this area is sold locally or is hauled to nearby markets. Thus, shipping firmness is not as important as in Area 1, but greater winter hardiness is needed.
- AREA 3. This area is marginal for peach production. Only the most winter-hardy varieties possessing commercial qualities are suggested. Peaches are sold locally and fewer firm varieties can be marketed successfully.

In the table on page 4, the varieties are listed in order as they ripen. Regular Elberta is used as the base point (zero). The approximate number of days is given before or after regular Elberta when the *first* picking of each variety is likely to be made. Most varieties will ripen fruit over a period of several days to two weeks, thus requiring two or more pickings. In the discussion section, varieties are listed in alphabetical order.

The variety suggestions are for satisfactory peach-growing sites; that is, sites with favorable air drainage. If peaches are to be planted on a questionable site, a variety should be selected from the next higher area (see map). For example, choose from the varieties suggested for Area 2 when a questionable site in Area 1 is involved. Similarly, Area 3 varieties should be used if the planting will be on a questionable site in Area 2. Peaches should not be planted on any poor site, or on any questionable site in Area 3.



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Discussion

Belle of Georgia is a winter hardy white peach. Its tender flesh makes it hard to handle even for local markets. However, many customers like its distinctive flavor and fine quality even though the flesh is browning. Belle of Georgia ripens about six days before Elberta.

Collins is a very bud hardy semi-cling with 75% red skin color, yellow flesh and enough firmness for shipping. Requires heavy thinning to obtain medium sized fruit.

Colora is very bud hardy in winter and during bloom. Fair quality fruit.

Comanche ripens about with Redhaven. Its quality and appearance are not quite equal to the fruit of properly thinned Redhaven trees. However, Comanche does not set as heavily as Redhaven and thus does not require as much fruit thinning to obtain adequate size. Comanche is more winter hardy than Redhaven. In 1970 at Alma, Comanche had a full crop whereas Redhaven had about half of a crop.

Cresthaven has performed well in Areas 1 and 2. It is a high quality, attractive peach suitable for shipping as well as local markets. Cresthaven is not winter hardy enough for dependable production in Area 3.

Eclipse is very bud hardy in winter. Fair quality fruit.

Elberta used to be the king of all peach varieties, but it is declining rapidly now because of its bud tenderness, pale color, browning flesh, and average quality.

Envoy has medium-sized fruit very well suited for canning and fresh-market use. The skin is yellow, with a 60-percent red blush. Envoy is too soft for shipping, but is resistant to *B. pruni*.

Garnet Beauty is an early ripening sport of Redhaven. The semi-freestone fruit resembles Redhaven in appearance and flavor, and is firm enough for commercial shipping.

Glohaven has not performed as expected in Illinois. It is somewhat bud-tender, and has not had regular crops in the Belleville area. During 1970 cold temperatures eliminated the crop

SUGGESTED

Days before or after Elberta	Area 1 ^{a/}
42	Collins
40	Garnet Beauty
37	Sunhaven
35	Harbelle (trial)
31	Late Sunhaven
30	
29	Comanche
28	Redhaven
27	
25	
24	Harken (trial)
21	
18	Loring
14	Harmony (trial)
9	
7	Cresthaven
2	Redskin
0	
7 after	Rio-Oso-Gem

^{a/} Some peach varieties not listed are being grown successfully and are considered as the most-dependable ones, and thus the most-
^{b/} (W) indicates white flesh.

VARIETIES

Area 2 ^a /	Area 3 ^a /
Collins	Collins
Garnet Beauty	
Sunhaven	
Harbelle (trial)	Harbelle (trial)
Late Sunhaven	
Raritan Rose (W) ^b /	Raritan Rose (W) ^b /
Comanche	Comanche
Redhaven	Redhaven
Harbrite (trial)	Harbrite (trial)
	Reliance (trial)
Harken (trial)	Harken (trial)
Golden Jubilee and Envoy	Golden Jubilee
Harmony (trial)	Harmony (trial), Colora, and Eclipse
Madison	Madison
Cresthaven	
Redskin	

in Illinois. However, the varieties suggested above are
ofitable ones for the areas indicated.

in the Grafton area. Glohaven is too soft to be a good shipping peach.

Golden Jubilee is a winter-hardy peach that sizes well and has a pleasant flavor. Its soft flesh and pale skin color limit it to local markets. Golden Jubilee drops badly as it ripens. However, the trees are hardy and productive.

Harbelle, Harken (Harrow 2066), and Harmony, three of the four new Canadian varieties, have performed well in trials in Kentucky and in Canada. The fruits have nonbrowning, yellow flesh and an attractive red skin. Because of their winter hardiness and good fruit quality, these varieties are suggested for *trial plantings*. The trees are strong, with some resistance to canker and *B. pruni*.

Harbrite, the fourth new Canadian variety, has not been tested in Kentucky. The Canadian description is a "very hardy free-stone, bright red over yellow skin, with firm yellow flesh. Excellent tree, very resistant to *B. pruni*." It matures about three or four days before Harken and about one or two days after Redhaven. It is suggested for *trial* in Areas 2 and 3.

Loring is a high-quality, attractive, shipping peach that sizes well. The buds are too tender for dependable production in Areas 2 and 3, but it should be a moneymaker on favorable sites in Area 1.

Madison is the only one of the presidential series of peaches from Virginia that is hardy enough for Illinois. And it is proving to be one of our hardiest varieties. Madison is suggested for local markets in Areas 2 and 3. Although it is being shipped from some areas of the United States, it is somewhat soft for easy commercial shipping. Madison drops when it is fully ripe.

Raritan Rose is an attractive, white-fleshed peach with considerable winter hardiness. It is suggested where a peach with that kind of flesh is desired for local marketing.

Redhaven is the king of its season, but requires extensive fruit-thinning in order to obtain adequate size.

Redskin overlaps with Elberta and is rapidly replacing Elberta for this season. Its main fault is a weak tree. Redskin is not cold-hardy enough for Area 3, and it should be limited to the best sites in Area 2. The fruit has high-quality flesh and an attractive, red skin.

Reliance is a particularly winter-hardy variety with good flesh quality. The frizziness of the skin detracts from its appearance. It is suggested for *trial* in Area 3.

Richhaven is not recommended for Illinois because of its tendency to form buttons and its erratic production.

Rio-Oso-Gem is somewhat winter-tender, even for Area 1. However, its fruit quality is the best of the varieties ripening after Elberta. The tree is weak and is very susceptible to winter injury, canker and *B. pruni*.

Sunhaven and Late Sunhaven are both attractive, good-quality, shipping peaches that ripen before Redhaven.

The following varieties have buds that are considered to be too tender for any area of Illinois: Blake, Cardinal, Jefferson, Monroe, Washington.

Nonbrowning flesh is desirable for fresh use, as well as for freezing and canning. The following varieties have this kind of flesh:

Comanche	Harken	Redskin
Cresthaven	Harmony	Reliance
Garnet Beauty	Late Sunhaven	Richhaven
Glohaven	Loring	Rio-Oso-Gem
Harbelle	Madison	Sunhaven
Harbrite	Redhaven	

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